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BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND NONPROLIFERATION – GTR PROGRAM

U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PERFORMANCE PUBLICATION
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FY 2009 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOALS

Achieving global peace and security is one of the primary goals of the Department of State. One of the greatest threats to United States and international security is the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their delivery systems to states of concern and terrorists. The United States is aware that terrorists and proliferant states are seeking WMD. Combating this threat is an integral component of assuring national security for the United States. The Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation (ISN) utilizes a multitude of strategies and tools to combat that threat. Targeted foreign assistance is one of the Bureau's most effective tools. Preventing the proliferation of weapons, their missile delivery systems, advanced conventional weapons, and related expertise, technology, equipment, and material is a critical priority. The global WMD terrorism and proliferation threat is urgent, diverse, and evolving. ISN's Global Threat Reduction (GTR) program helps prevent proliferant state, terrorist, and other non-state actors' access to WMD expertise, materials, and equipment – particularly in frontline states such as Pakistan, Iraq, and Afghanistan – and in regions where the risk of terrorism and proliferation is greatest, such as South and Southeast Asia, the Middle East, North Africa, and the former Soviet Union. GTR includes initiatives to enhance security for dangerous biological materials and improve chemical security best practices. It closes the most urgent gaps in other states' abilities to prevent, detect, and respond to nuclear smuggling and nuclear terrorism threats. Finally, GTR continues to engage scientists, technicians, and engineers with WMD and applicable expertise worldwide, particularly in Iraq, Libya, and the former Soviet Union. GTR also serves as the cornerstone of the U.S. effort to transition the Science Centers in Moscow and Kyiv to self-sustainability.

Programs discussed in this publication are funded through the Department of State. The U.S. Agency for International Development does not currently provide direct assistance to ISN-GTR.

HIGHLIGHTS OF FY 2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The GTR program includes several sub-programs, outlined below, each of which contributes to the overall objective of reducing the threat of terrorist or proliferant state acquisition of WMD materials, equipment, and expertise. Among GTR's highest priorities for FY 2009 was the development and deepening of activities in key nations like Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iraq. GTR has made great progress achieving this objective. GTR also focused on expanding its robust biosecurity efforts; enhancing biological and chemical security in priority regions like South and Southeast Asia and the Middle East; expanding assistance to prevent nuclear smuggling and the proliferation of nuclear expertise; providing targeted assistance toward self-sustainability for former WMD scientists, engineers, and technicians, and their institutes in the former Soviet Union; engaging former WMD experts in Iraq and Libya; and partnering with Libya on the establishment of a nuclear medicine center. In FY 2009, GTR also continued cost-effective program management, as illustrated by the expansion of GTR to include new programs while continuing and expanding current initiatives.

Biological Security Engagement

The GTR-funded Biosecurity Engagement Program was launched in 2006 to strengthen biosecurity measures worldwide in an effort to prevent bioterrorism by reducing terrorist access to dangerous biological materials, dual-use infrastructure, and expertise. The program engages scientists worldwide to mitigate evolving biological threats from the nexus of infectious disease, expanding dual-use bioscience capabilities, and transnational terrorism. In FY 2009, GTR received a specific request from Congress to allocate $27 million of its FY 2009 appropriation to global biosecurity programming. FY 2009 highlights for GTR efforts to improve global biological security include:

- Providing funding to engage thousands of scientists, technicians, and engineers throughout Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America in trainings, conferences, projects, and grants to improve pathogen security, laboratory biosafety, and infectious disease surveillance and control
- Establishing a new program of activities in Afghanistan while deepening engagement in Pakistan, Iraq, Indonesia, the Philippines, and other nations throughout South and Southeast Asia
- Significantly expanding biological engagement activities in the Middle East and Africa

Chemical Security Engagement

The GTR-funded Chemical Security Engagement Program (CSP) seeks to deter terrorists and proliferant states from accessing chemical expertise and materials that could be used in a chemical attack. CSP engages priority countries to decrease the chemical threat by raising chemical threat awareness, improving chemical security and safety best practices in academia and industry, and increasing chemical security and safety by fostering collaborations between chemical professionals in academia and industry. Highlights of FY 2009 accomplishments to improve global chemical security include:

- Instituting a chemical security/safety officer program, including developing a new curriculum, for South and Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and in Africa and other regions

- Deepening engagement in key nations like Pakistan, Iraq, Indonesia, Philippines, and Malaysia, and starting up new activities in the Middle East and key nations in Africa
- Expanding partnership with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to extend training opportunities in chemical security and safety on a more global scale

Libya Scientist Engagement

In FY 2009, GTR continued to engage scientists, technicians, and engineers in Libya. In particular, GTR agreed to partner with Libya toward establishing a nuclear medicine center and completed a draft strategy for the proposed center. GTR also continued efforts to engage and redirect Libya's former WMD personnel by providing technical support and training on radioisotope quality assurance, desalination technologies, and laboratory management – key areas identified by the Government of Libya.

Iraq Scientist Engagement

In FY 2009, GTR-funded activities in Iraq focused on the expansion of the Iraq Scientist Engagement Program (ISEP) engagement of Iraqi scientists, technicians, and engineers with weapons-applicable expertise. Specifically, GTR initiated the phase-out of the Iraqi International Center for Science and Industry (IICSI); expanded engagement by developing more in-country programmatic activities such as technical conferences and workshops; broadened ISEP's research grant competition and fellowship programs for Iraqi scientists; began promoting safety and security best practices at Iraqi facilities that produce, use, and/or store potentially dangerous or dual-use biological, chemical, and radiological materials; developed program plans to help build Iraq's capacity to detect and control infectious pathogens that could be exploited for harmful purposes; and created relationships with other United States Government partners and the Government of Iraq (GOI) to achieve ISEP's nonproliferation objectives. The shift in engagement from the IICSI model to a broader range of cooperative activities with stronger GOI support has helped ISEP engage close to 1,000 scientists in FY 2009.

Engaging Nuclear Scientists, Technicians, and Engineers

The GTR-funded Partnership for Nuclear Security (PNS) seeks to advance United States and international threat reduction and counterterrorism goals by engaging nuclear scientists, technicians, and engineers to prevent proliferation of nuclear expertise. In FY 2009, PNS expanded efforts to engage scientists, technicians, and engineers with nuclear expertise in North Africa and the Middle East, including facilitating nuclear expert involvement with the Institute of Nuclear Materials Management and developing collaborative research projects with scientists from Algeria and Morocco.

Preventing Nuclear Smuggling

In FY 2009, GTR continued to fund activities to prevent and respond to nuclear smuggling. Through the outreach component of the Preventing Nuclear Smuggling Program (PNSP), also known as the Nuclear Smuggling Outreach Initiative, GTR accomplished the following:

- Engaged eight priority countries and proposed to engage two more to develop and implement joint action plans to improve anti-nuclear smuggling capabilities

- Completed internal preparations needed to begin engagements with four more priority countries
- Secured and coordinated significant new funding from both U.S. programs and several international partners for assistance projects to support joint action plan implementation in several countries
- Conducted successful implementation reviews in three partner countries

PNSP also provided its own funding to support projects to address critical gaps in anti-smuggling and response capabilities, leverage international funding, and enhance nuclear forensics capabilities.

Science Centers Engagement

In FY 2009, GTR sought to work together with the Russian Federation and its other Partners to transform the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) in Moscow into an instrument of collaboration among equals, in order better to address proliferation issues in the former Soviet Union and beyond. The ISTC in Moscow and the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine in Kyiv continued their activities to engage and transition former WMD scientists, technicians, engineers, and the institutes where they are employed. Both Centers recorded progress on the road to the self-sustainability of their programs.